

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous claims, and listings of claims, in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A motor-driven power steering apparatus in which a rotating torque of an electric motor is transmitted to a steering shaft by a drive gear provided in an output shaft of said electric motor and a driven gear provided in said steering shaft, and a speed reduction ratio is equal to or more than 3,

wherein said steering shaft and the output shaft of said electric motor are arranged in almost parallel, a center distance between both the shafts is equal to or more than 35 mm and equal to or less than 90 mm, and

wherein said drive gear has at least 6 and no more than 15 teeth, is configured such that a number of teeth is equal to or more than 6 and equal to or less than 15, a module of said drive gear is equal to or more than 0.8 and equal to or less than 1.5, a tooth depth of said drive gear is equal to or less than 2.4 times of the module, and a pressure angle of said drive gear is equal to or more than 14.5 degrees and equal to or less than 30 degrees, and a torsion angle of said drive gear is equal to or more than 0 degree degrees and equal to or less than 40 degrees.

Claim 2 (Original): A motor-driven power steering apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein an involute gear in which a tooth profile is formed in such a manner that a pressure angle is increased from a tooth top of the gear to a tooth root is employed for one or both of said drive gear and said driven gear.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A motor-driven power steering apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein an involute gear in which a crowning process is applied in a direction of a tooth trace is employed for one or both of said drive gear and said driven gear.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): A motor-driven power steering apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein an involute gear in which a crowning process is applied in a direction of a tooth trace is employed for one or both of said drive gear and said driven gear.